

REMARKS

Claims 2-6 and 8-14 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 2, 4 and 6 are amended and claims 1 and 7 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicants appreciate and thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 8-14 are allowed (Applicants believe that claim 14 is allowed because claim 14 depends on allowed independent claim 8) and claims 2-5 and 7 contain allowable subject matter. For reasons discussed, reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Matsushita (U.S. Patent No. 6,901,002). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, the Office Action indicated that claims 2 and 4 contained allowable subject matter. Claims 2 and 4 have been rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 6 incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 7. Therefore, independent claims 2, 4 and 6 define patentable subject matter. Claims 3 and 5 depend on independent claim 2, and also contain allowable subject matter. The Office Action has indicated that claims 8-14 are allowed. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

Date: October 27, 2005

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